

Summary of DAT Conference Call 5/1/2007

Participants: EChappell (DWR), EVolkman (FWS), RGartz(DFG), BOppenheim(NMFS), RBaxter(DFG), VPoage(FWS), AChu(DWR), MWhite(DWR), MFord(DWR), NHindman(FWS), JSnow(WWD), TBoardman(SLDMWA), THinojosa(DWR), PManza(BR), KCrosby(BR)

Conclusions and Recommendations

There were no new operational recommendations today.

VAMP started on Saturday 4/22 with a flow target of 3200cfs on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis and a combined export rate of 1500cfs. The first group of acoustically tagged Chinook will be released this week.

20mm Survey Update – DFG completed Survey 4 last week. The samples are still being processed but based on preliminary data no delta smelt larvae were caught in the south or central Delta. DFG has caught a few larval fish in the Sacramento River. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/>.

Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 5/8/2007, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Phone number 916/657-4111.

Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River

Red Bluff Diversion Dam – FWS did not sample for most of the week due to the prolonged hatchery release.

FWS will pull the traps tomorrow, 5/2, for the temporary installation of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) gates. The RBDD gates will be lowered from May 3rd to May 8th to meet water demands. The gates will then be raised until 5/15 when they will be lowered again for the season.

FWS posts biweekly reports on the Bay-Delta and Tributaries Project website, at http://baydelta.ca.gov/Php/Special_Reports/red_bluff.php

Mill Creek – For the period 4/23 to 4/27 the catch of Chinook decreased but the catch of steelhead increased. DFG caught 143 fry/smolt Chinook and 16 steelhead.

Deer Creek – For the period 4/23 to 4/27 the catch increased slightly. DFG caught 1246 fry/smolt Chinook and 9 steelhead.

Butte Creek –For the period of 4/20 to 4/30 the catch of fry/smolts ranged from 63 to 1546 per day.

GCID – For two days, 4/28-4/29 of sampling, the catch of fry/smolt Chinook increased ranging from 291 to 438 per day. The catch of adclipped Chinook also increased ranging from 29 to 34 per day.

Knights Landing – The catch of fry/smolt Chinook increased from 10 to 30 per trap-day to 6-100 per trap-day. DFG also caught 106 adclipped Chinook and 1 adclipped steelhead. DFG will resume checking the trap daily due to increased catch and water temperatures.

Delta Monitoring

Sacramento Mid-water Trawl – 3 sample days, 30 samples. FWS caught 236 fry/smolts and 3 adclipped Chinook. No other species of interest.

Lower Sacramento River seine – 1 sample day, 7 samples. FWS caught 21 fry/smolts and 1 adclipped Chinook. No other species of interest.

North Delta seine – 1 sample day, 9 samples. FWS caught 10 fry/smolt Chinook and 1 adclipped steelhead.

Central Delta seine – 2 sample days, 10 samples. FWS caught 19 fry/smolts and 4 adclipped Chinook. FWS also caught 4 splittail.

South Delta seine – 1 sample day, 5 samples. No species of interest.

Mossdale Kodiak Trawl – 4 sample days, 40 samples. DFG, Region 4 is now sampling 5 days per week. They caught 556 fry/smolts, 1 older juvenile and 3 adclipped Chinook. They also caught 3 in-river steelhead.

San Joaquin River seine – 2 sample days, 5 samples. No species of interest.

Chippis Island Midwater Trawl – 7 sample days, 70 samples. FWS caught 1135 fry/smolt, 2 older juvenile and 233 adclipped Chinook. They also caught 1 in-river steelhead, 3 hatchery steelhead, 2 delta smelt (not checked) and 5 splittail.

Bay seine – 1 sample day, 4 samples. No species of interest.

Delta Smelt Monitoring

Spring Kodiak Trawl Update – DFG started Survey 5 yesterday, 4/30. They did not catch any delta smelt in the south Delta stations. The results from the Spring Kodiak Trawl surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/skt/>.

20mm Survey Update – DFG completed Survey 4 last week. The samples are still being processed but based on preliminary data no delta smelt larvae were caught in the south or central Delta. DFG has caught a few larval fish in the Sacramento River. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/>.

Delta Smelt Working Group Update – The DSWG will meet again on May 7th to review survey results, water temperature data, and to discuss any potential post-VAMP actions.

Salvage Facilities –

Chinook – No winter-run length Chinook were lost at either Facility in the last week. To date, the season total at the CVP is 1555 and the season total is 1742 at the SWP. CWT loss for CVP was 10.

Steelhead – SWP salvaged 20 in-river and 1 adclipped steelhead. CVP salvaged 24 in-river and 12 hatchery steelhead. The combined salvage of in-river steelhead is 2735 for the season. The incidental take level is 3000. Salvage has dropped since the start of VAMP but biologists are planning for a post-VAMP action if necessary. The action would be a ramp-up in pumping from May 23rd to May 31st. They are also considering recommending leaving the HORB during this time. Biologists will continue to monitor salvage data, Mossdale trawl data and water temperatures to determine if a post-VAMP action is necessary.

Delta smelt – None.

Splittail – SWP salvaged 4 splittail for a season total of 290.

Longfin smelt – None.

Sturgeon – None.

The Federal Facility will be shut down for repairs for 8 hours on 5/2.

The DFG Salvage Database can be accessed at this ftp site:
<ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>.

Turbidity data for Clifton Court forebay is available at:
<http://cdec2.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryFx?CLC>.

VAMP Update

VAMP started on Saturday 4/22 with a flow target of 3200cfs on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis and a combined export rate of 1500cfs. The first group of acoustically tagging Chinook will be released on May 3rd. The fish are still on the small side which may affect survival. VAMP will continue until May 22nd.

Agricultural Barriers

HORB – The barrier is closed with three culverts open to protect downstream water levels.

Old & Middle River – The barriers are closed and the culverts are operating tidally.

Grantline – DWR received approval to close the barrier from FWS on 4/25 to protect downstream water levels. They began closing the barrier last week and it is expected to be completed early this week.

Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 700 cfs.

Oroville – 1,750 cfs.

X2 – 14-day average < 74 km.

E/I - 14-day = 8.7%.

San Luis - ~878 taf. SWP share of San Luis capacity is 1,062 taf.

EWA - The current debt in San Luis is approximately 175-180taf. VAMP is currently controlling operations and EWA is accruing debt at about 0-2taf per day. The debt in San Luis is projected to be approximately 200taf by the end of VAMP. There is also a 30taf placeholder for a post-VAMP shoulder for an estimated debt of 230taf in San Luis for WY 2007.

CVP -

Tracy PP – 800 cfs.

DCC – Closed.

Trinity – 4,500 cfs. The BR is mid-way through the pulse flow and will ramp down releases by the end of the week.

Clear Creek – 200 cfs.

Keswick – 8,500 cfs. Releases were increased to help meet the Wilkins Slough objective.

Nimbus – 1,500 cfs.

Goodwin – 1,500 cfs.

San Luis – 688 taf. CVP share of San Luis capacity is 966 taf.

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 10,080 cfs.

Fremont Weir ~ 0.

San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 3,560 cfs.

Delta Outflow ~ 11,400 cfs. The 3-day average is 11,900 cfs.

Old and Middle Rivers ~ combined -1906 cfs as of 4/28/07; 5-day average is -1022 cfs.

Delta Water Quality

Salinity levels are good in the western Delta and have been improving in the south Delta except at the Old River near Tracy Road Bridge station. Excess conditions were declared on April 23rd. The Chipps Island X2 standard was met for 30 days in April leaving 5 carryover days for May. The operators are estimating the Chipps Island X2 standard will need to be met for 0 to 1 day in May.

May Water Quality Standards

Collinsville X2 standard – The standard must be met for the full 31 days by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 7,100cfs.

Chippis Island X2 standard – The standard must be met for 0 to 1 day by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 11,400cfs.

Port Chicago was not triggered for May.

E/I Ratio – $\leq 35\%$.

Contra Costa Canal – $Cl \leq 250$ mg/L. In addition, $Cl \leq 150$ mg/L for 165 days per year. This portion of the standard has been met for 102 days so far.

Western Delta – $EC \leq 0.45$ at Emmaton, Jersey Point, Terminous, and San Andreas stations.

South Delta – 30-day average $EC \leq 0.7$

Suisun Marsh = $EC \leq 11$

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